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THE
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

OF THE
✓
NEW-YORK

Historical Society,

Instituted in the City of New-York, the 10th day of December, 1804.



NEW-YORK :

Printed at GRATTAN'S OFFICE, 22 Wall-street.

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CONSTITUTION.



I. THIS Society shall be denominated "THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY."

II. The object of the Society shall be to discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, medical, and ecclesiastical history of the United States in general, and of this State in particular.

III. The Society shall consist of resident and honorary members; the former to be persons residing in the State of New-York; the latter persons residing elsewhere.

IV. The officers of the Society to be elected annually and by ballot, shall be,

A President,

A first Vice-President,

A second Vice-President,

A Treasurer,

A Secretary,

A Librarian.

V. All members (honorary members excepted) shall pay, on admission, the sum of *ten dollars*, and an ad-

letter. He shall keep, in suitable books to be provided for that purpose, true copies of all letters written in the name of the Society, and preserve the originals of all letters and communications received.

IV. The *Treasurer* shall receive and keep all sums of money due and payable, and all donations and bequests of money or other property made to the Society. He shall pay all such sums as may be incurred for the ordinary expenses of the Society. He shall keep a true and faithful account of all moneys received and paid by him, and once in every year render a particular statement of the same to the Society, who shall appoint a committee of three members to examine and audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

V. All donations of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and articles of curiosity, shall be received with thanks, and entered on the books of the Society, with the names of the donors.

A member, on paying to the Treasurer annually, the sum of dollars in addition to the dues established by the constitution of the Society, shall have the privilege of proposing the purchase of a work or works, by delivering to the Librarian, in writing, the title, price, and publisher's name. The proposition shall be submitted to the officers of the Society, and they shall adopt or reject the same, as to them shall seem expedient.

It shall be the duty of the Librarian to procure all

works so proposed and adopted by the officers, and without delay, by importation or otherwise.

All works so proposed, ordered and procured, shall be deposited by the Librarian in cases apart from the general Library, to be circulated among and referred to by such only, as shall have contributed to the fund expressly raised and appropriated for the purchasing such recommended works.

No work or works shall be ordered or procured under this section if the cost thereof exceeds the amount of funds in the Treasury belonging to this special account.

The amount paid to the Treasurer on this account, shall be kept distinct from the other concerns of the Society.

VI. The Librarian shall also be the keeper of the Cabinet until the Society think proper to appoint another person to that office ; he shall carefully keep and preserve, in suitable cases to be provided for that purpose, or in such manner as the Society may direct, all the books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and articles belonging to the Society.

. All pamphlets, except duplicates, shall be bound in volumes, and all the books shall be numbered by a label on the outside, and on the title-page of each volume shall be written the number, and the words, "The property of the Historical Society." All manuscripts to be marked and numbered, and kept in cases to be

numbered, and the contents marked on the outside.— Every member taking any book or manuscript out of the Library, shall give a receipt for the same in a book to be provided for that purpose ; which receipt shall contain a promise to return the book within three months, and to make good all damages which it may suffer in the mean time ; and in case the book shall not be returned within the time specified, that he will replace the same, if it can be obtained, or deliver to the Librarian such book or books as in the opinion of the officers of the Society shall be of equal value, or pay the value thereof in money ; but the Society may direct the Librarian not to lend such particular books and manuscripts as are of great rarity or value.

No book or manuscript shall be lent to any person but a member of the Society ; and if any other person is desirous to have the use of any book or manuscript, application must be made in his behalf to the Librarian, by one of the members, who shall give a receipt for such book or manuscript, expressing the name and place of abode of the person to whom the same is lent, and engaging for the return of it within three months, and to be accountable for the damage or loss thereof.

TO THE PUBLIC.



The Address of the New-York Historical Society.

HAVING formed an association, for the purpose of discovering, procuring, and preserving whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, medical and ecclesiastical history of our country, and particularly of the State of New-York, we solicit the aid of the liberal, patriotic and learned, to promote the objects of our institution.

The utility of societies for the advancement of science, has been so fully proved by the experience of the most enlightened nations of Europe, and by that of our own country, that there can be no need, at this time, of any formal arguments in support of their claim to public patronage.

It is well known that many valuable manuscripts and papers relating to the history of our country remain in the possession of those who, though unwilling to entrust them to a single person, would yet cheerfully confide them to a public institution, in whose custody they might be preserved for the general benefit of society. To rescue from the dust and obscurity of private repo-

sitories such important documents, as are liable to be lost or destroyed by the indifference or neglect of those into whose hands they may have fallen, is a primary object of our attention.

The paucity of materials relating to the first settlement and to the colonial transactions of this State, and the extreme difficulty of procuring them can be fully appreciated by those only who have projected an historical monument of those events, and for this purpose have examined into the nature and amount of their resources. Without the aid of original and authentic documents, history can be nothing more than a well combined series of ingenious conjectures and amusing fables ; and, therefore, as the cause of truth is interesting to all men, those who possess the means, however small, of preventing error, or of elucidating obscure facts, will confer a benefit on mankind by communicating them to the world.

We do not aspire to the higher walks of general science, but shall confine the range of our exertions to the humble task of collecting and preserving whatever may be useful to others in the different branches of historical inquiry. We aim not to be rivals to other institutions, but, on the contrary, shall rejoice to co-operate with them in pursuing the objects of our common researches ; satisfied if, in the end, our efforts shall be attended with equal success.

Our inquiries are not limited to a single State or dis-

strict, but extend to the whole Continent ; and it will be our business to diffuse the information we may collect in such manner as will best conduce to general instruction. As soon as our collection shall be sufficient to form another volume,* and the funds of the Society will admit, we shall commence its publication, that we may better secure our treasures by means of the press, from the corrosions of time and the power of accident.

That this object may be sooner and more effectually attained, we request all who feel disposed to encourage our design, to transmit, as soon as convenient, to the Society,

Manuscripts, Records, Pamphlets, and Books relative to the History of this Country ;

Orations, Sermons, Essays, Discourses, Poems, and Tracts ; delivered, written, or published on any public occasion ; or which concern any public transaction or remarkable character or event ;

Laws, Journals, Copies of Records, and Proceedings of Congresses, Legislatures, General Assemblies, Conventions, Committees of Safety, Secret Committees for General Objects, Treaties and Negotiations with any Indian Tribes, or with any State or Nation ;

Proceedings of Ecclesiastical Conventions, Synods, General Assemblies, Presbyteries, and Societies of all denominations of Christians ;

* Four volumes have been published by the Society.

Narratives of Missionaries, and Proceedings of Missionary Societies ;

Narratives of Indian Wars, Battles, and Exploits ; of the Adventures and Sufferings of Captives, Voyagers, and Travellers ;

Minutes and Proceedings of Societies for the Abolition of Slavery, and the Transactions of Societies for Political, Literary, and Scientific Purposes ;

Accounts of Universities, Colleges, Academies, and Schools ; their origin, progress, and present state ;

Topographical Descriptions of Cities, Towns, Counties, and Districts, at various periods, with Maps, and whatever relates to the progressive Geography of the Country ;

Statistical Tables—Tables of Diseases, Births and Deaths, and of Population ; of Meteorological Observations, and facts relating to Climate ;

Accounts of Exports and Imports at various periods, and of the progress of Manufactures and Commerce ;

Magazines, Reviews, Newspapers, and other Periodical Publications, particularly such as appeared antecedent to the year 1783 ;

Biographical Memoirs and Anecdotes of ^{eminent} and remarkable Persons in America, or who have been connected with its settlement or history ;

Original Essays and Disquisitions on the Natural, Civil, Literary, or Ecclesiastical History of any State, City, Town, or District.

As the Society intend to form a Library and Cabinet, they will gratefully receive Donations of books and pamphlets relative to the above objects, they will be thankfully accepted, and all communications duly noticed in the publications of the Society. Coins and Medals will be very acceptable to the Society.

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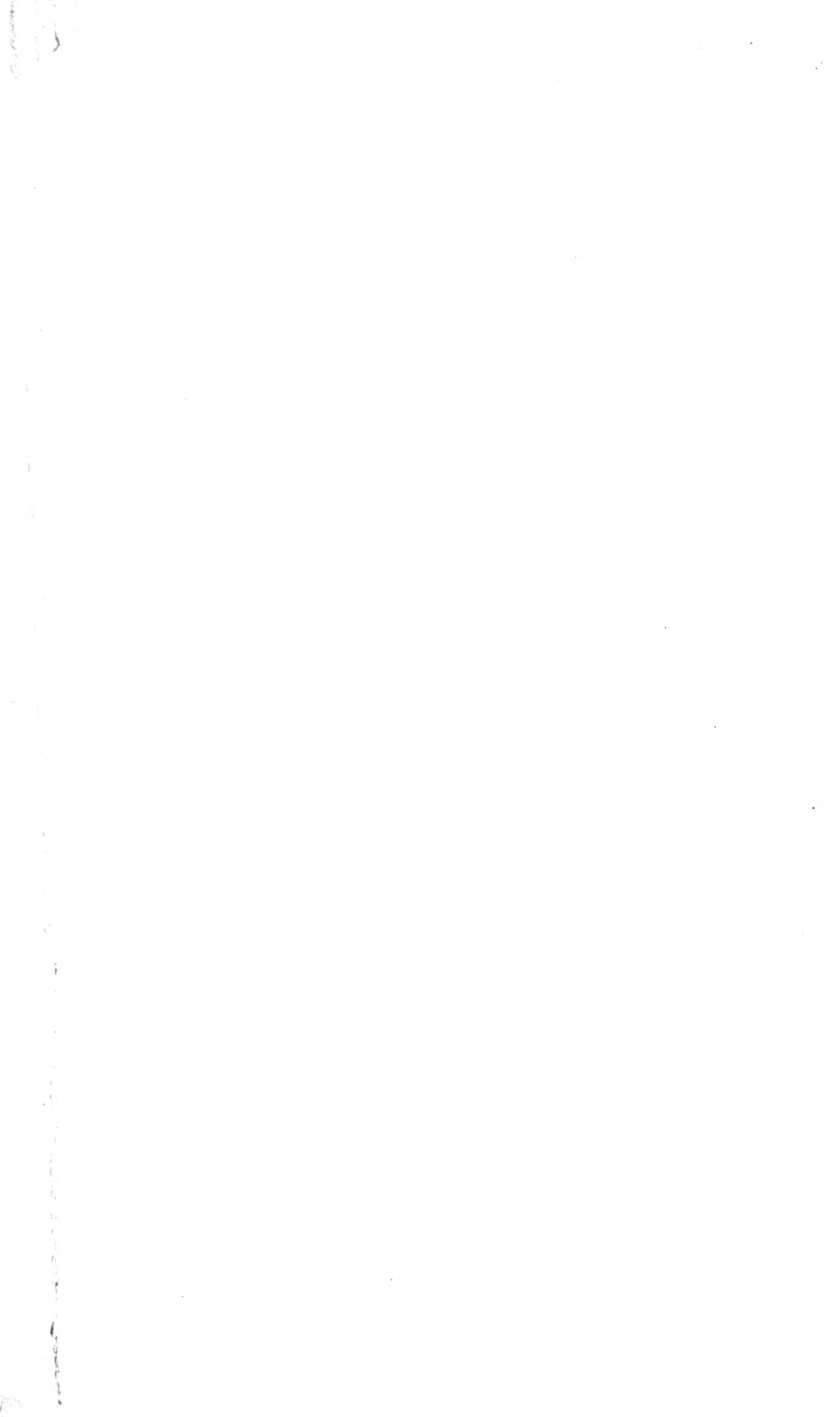
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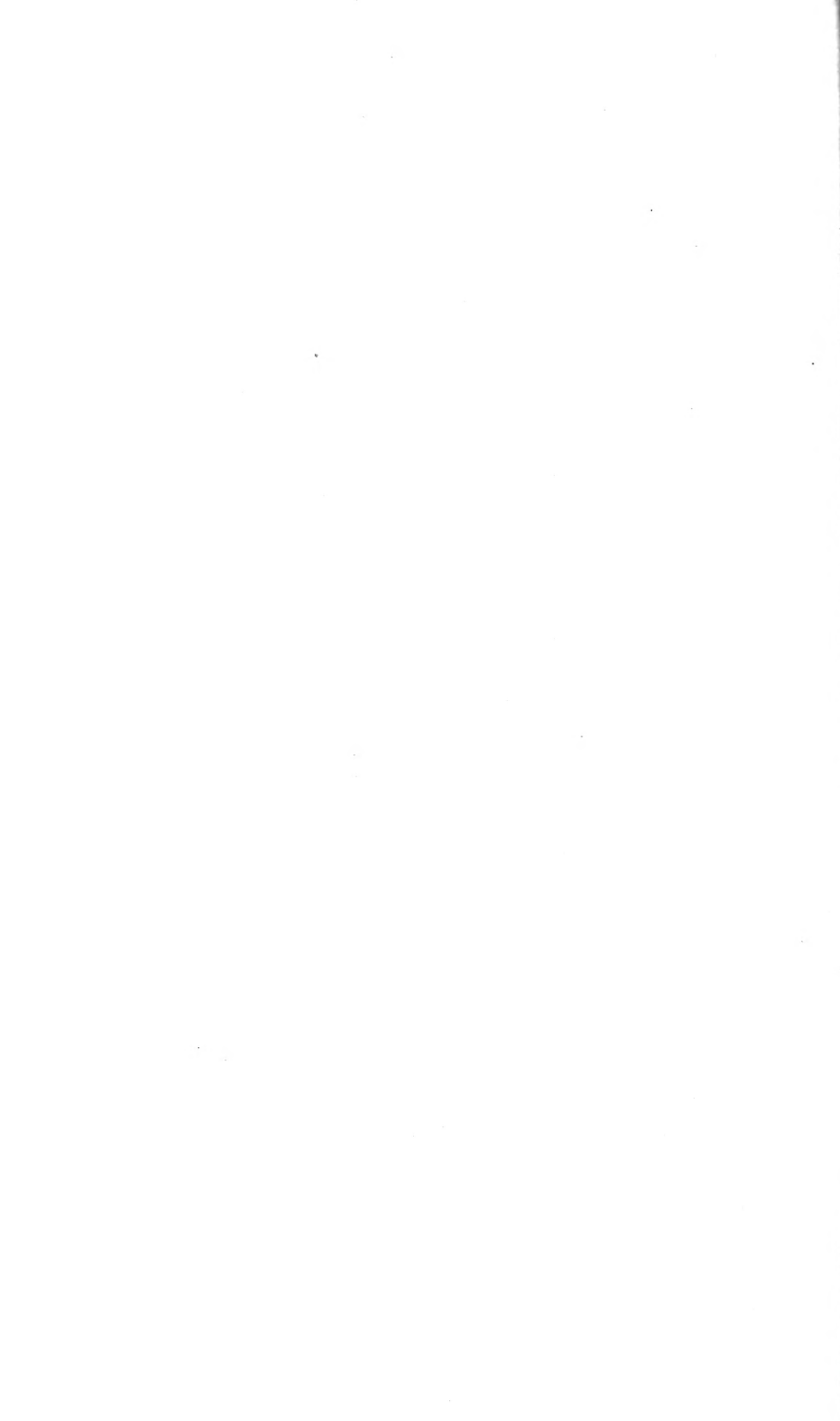
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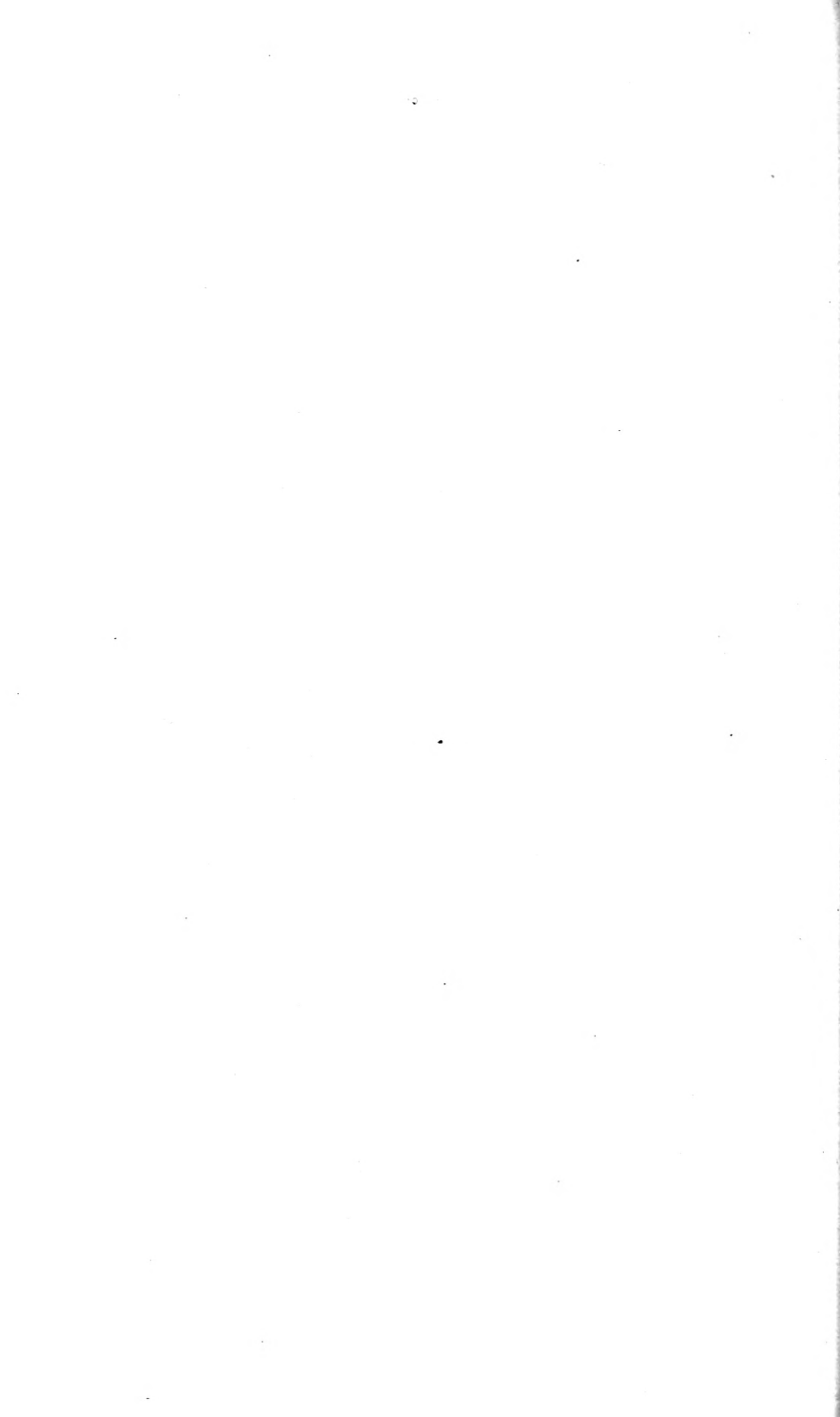




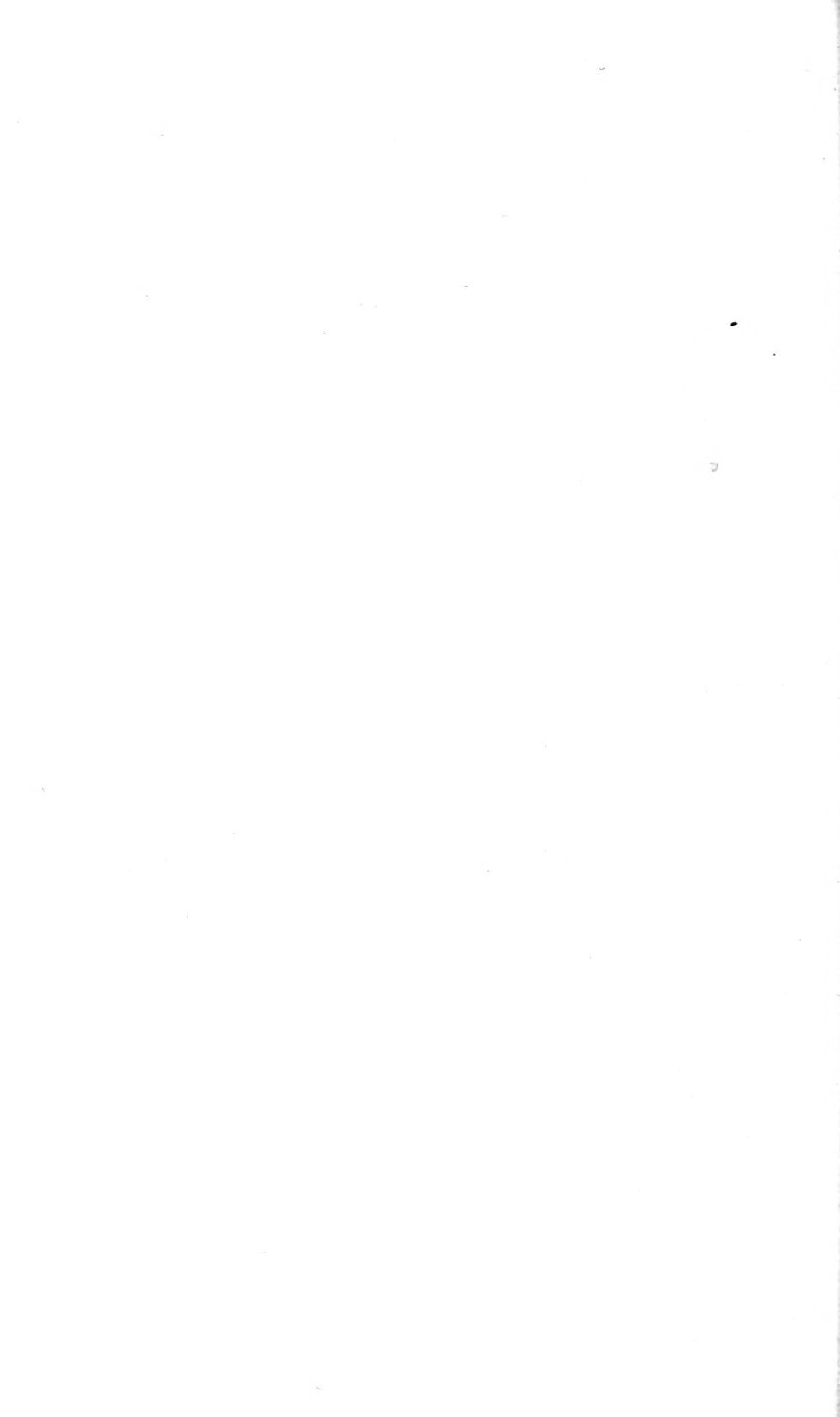




















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